

## EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

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APPLICANT : SUMITOMO ELECTRIC IND LTD;

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TITLE : PRODUCTION OF GLASS

ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To avoid cracking and deforming in a sintering step and enable vitrification in high yield, by previously subjecting a dried gel to dehydration treatment at a low temperature in a chlorine based gas atmosphere and sintering the gel in producing glass by a sol-gel method.

CONSTITUTION: Glass is produced by a sol-gel method. In the process, a dried gel is subjected to dehydration treatment at a low temperature in a chlorine based gas atmosphere, then thermally sintered and vitrified.  $\text{OCl}_4$  or  $\text{SOCl}_2$  can be used as the chlorine based gas in addition to chlorine gas. The dehydration treatment at the low temperature is preferably carried out under condition of a temperature within the range of ordinary temperature  $\sim 100^\circ\text{C}$  for  $\geq 1$  hr treating time.

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